DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 105 824 IR 001 848

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TITLE Development of Scientific and Technical Libraries in the U.S.S.R.
PUB DATE Nov 74
NOTE 17p.; Paper presented at the General Council Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (40th, Washington, D.C., November 1974)

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.76 HC-$1.58 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS Agency Role; *Centralization; Communism; Economic Development; Economic Factors; Historical Reviews; Industrialization; *Industrial Structure; Information Systems; Library Cooperation; Library Networks; *Library Planning; Library Role; Research Libraries; Sciences; *Special Libraries; *Technology
IDENTIFIERS IFLA 1974; Lenin (Vladimir); Library Development; *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; USSR

ABSTRACT

The organization and development of scientific and technical libraries in the Soviet Union are natural results of the policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government for the intensive economic and cultural development of the country. Soon after the establishment of Soviet power, the libraries of the Supreme Economic Council were formed. Attached to various industrial and scientific institutions and under the centralized guidance of the Supreme Economic Council, they formed the basis of the present technical library network. These libraries have been and are developing as an indissoluble part of the general library system of the USSR, providing close coordination and cooperation within their own system, with other types of libraries, and with scientific and technical institutions. This well-planned development is the result of carrying out Lenin's principles of librarianship. It has resulted in the creation of a single multisection network of scientific and technical libraries, spread throughout the country and based on both technical branch and territorial principles. At present, a long term plan is being elaborated to carry technical library development through the year 2000, moving toward a single State library system. (Author/SL)

ED105824

64/ER/SL/50

IFLA/FIAB

International Federation
of Library Associations
40th Session, November 1974
Washington
Section of Special Libraries

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/U.S.S.R./

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IR 001 848

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DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL LIBRARIES IN THE U.S.S.R.

1. One of the most important achievements in library development in the U.S.S.R. in the years of Soviet power is creation of a single, unified system of scientific and technical libraries. These libraries, being vitally linked with science and industry, play the leading role in meeting professional and scientific requirements of their users; the latter is proved by a number of studies undertaken in the U.S.S.R. in the last years. They are among the first in the system of special libraries of all types. The number of scientific and technical libraries, their common stock, the number of readers make up in succession 78, 72 and 76 per cent of all the special libraries in the U.S.S.R.

2. In pre- revolutionary Russia technical libraries were extremely scarce (not more than hundred of them). On the so-called Tsarist outlying districts there were no libraries of this kind at all. Their typological structure was primitive. Libraries were organized mainly at higher schools, scientific and technical societies and sometimes - at industrial enterprises. They were rather secluded, serving only engineers and technicians. The idea of "reader-worker" was absolutely alien to most pre-revolutionary libraries. Only those libraries, which were organized on the initiative of progressive scientific and technical social circles, of various technical societies and committees, tried to enlarge the

number of their readers by drawing proletarian elements, that is, real producers of material values.

3. Formation and development of scientific and technical libraries in the Soviet period were caused by consistent realization of the main objectives of Socialist industrialization, accompanied by intensive and systematic implementation of scientific achievements, by introduction of new, both national and foreign, technology, by creation of a broad network of scientific and technical institutions, by unprecedented quantitative and qualitative changes of industrial personnel, by rapid growth of production of technical publications.

4. Organization and development of scientific and technical libraries in the Soviet period are natural results of the policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government aimed at intensive economic and cultural development of the country (particularly, of the former remote districts of Tsarist Russia), at bringing together nationalities, united by common purpose - creation of the material and technical basis of communism.

That is why the following factors were taken into consideration first of all: arrangement of industrial enterprises belonging to one branch or another, living standards of the population, national traditions and customs, the historical past and other peculiarities of every Union Republic. At the same time the principal problems of the activities of scientific and technical libraries were solved- and are still being solved - in the situation of close co-operation and mutual assistance of libraries in the other Union Republics.

5. At present all the fifteen Union Republics possess a wide--spread network of large special libraries. Thus, there are 2588

scientific and technical libraries in the Ukrainian S.S.R. and 285, in Byelorussia. Karaganda region in the Kazakh S.S.R., where the first technical library was open in 1943, has 80 of them. In the Baltic Republics there were no scientific and technical libraries at all; now the Estonian S.S.R. has 387 libraries of this kind; the Lithuanian S.S.R. 240 libraries and the Latvian S.S.R. 227 libraries. It is necessary to emphasize that it is not only a question of an important quantitative change, it is also a matter of considerable qualitative advances (and this is the essence of the changes occurred): in the Soviet period these libraries have formed a single, unified system, their functions, their social role and purpose have radically changed. Scientific and technical libraries, being true democratic institutions, are open to engineers and technicians, workers and employees. So they fulfill ideological, educational and training functions, which are indissoluble, render assistance in acquiring knowledge about new scientific and technical achievements, in improvement of professional skill and qualifications of industrial workers.

A wide-spread network of scientific and technical libraries has a certain effect on development indices of all branches of industry and national economy in general, on further technical progress.

The structure of the technical libraries network in the Soviet situation have depended and still depends on the structure of the system of production, science and technology, served by the libraries, and it has been formed parallelly and in conformity with the management structure and administration of this system, thus being able to serve all sectors and branches of economy from an industrial enterprise to a ministry or department.

6. Nearly after the establishment of Soviet power new libraries began to spring up in various industrial enterprises, research institutions, industrial associations, managerial agencies, educational institutions, central administrative organizations. Thus, for instance, in a month after its organization the Presidium of the main managerial body of the country, the Supreme Economic Council, adopted a number of decisions, related to the economical development of the young Soviet State, at its first session in December 1917, the decision to create a versatile scientific and technical library being one of them.

The above-mentioned library and two other libraries, serving the central bodies of the Supreme Economic Council , laid the foundation of the State Scientific Library (GNB). It had been operating for 40 years. In 1958 by the decree of the Soviet Government the State Public Scientific and Technical Library of the U.S.S.R. (GPNTB) was founded, which adopted the methods, experience and best traditions of the GNB. G.K.Orjonikidze, F.E. Dzerzhinsky, V.V. Kuibyshev and other prominent Party and administrative fugures took part in the establishment and development of the scientific and technical libraries in the system of the Supreme Economic Council.

The process of forming a typological structure of scientific and technical libraries started in the years when the system of interlinked year and long-term plans was founded. Later it was developed and improved in the process of elaborating a single system of national economic plans. The first of them was the long-term national economic plan GOELRO(the State Commission for the Electrification of Russia), worked out with the most active participation of Lenin and adopted in 1920.

7. In the same year of 1920 Lenin's decree "On the Centralization of Libraries of the R.S.F.S.R." was adopted. It outlined the main lines for future development of the Socialist system of library service and was a national plan of constructing the library system in the socialist society.

This document and some additional materials (V.I. Lenin's amendment and corrections to the draft copy of the decree " On the Centralization of Libraries in the R.S.F.S.R." written by N.K. Krupskaya) and other Lenin's works, displaying his views of the problems of library development, underscored the vital necessity to unify libraries of all types, including special libraries, to put an end to isolation and dissociation of libraries, to create an interconnected library system which would (Lenin's words are cited)" help the people to gain access to every available book", " to satisfy those who can read and to teach those who cannot", so that " our propaganda, our guiding principles, our pamphlets could be perceived by the people in deed", resulting in the rise of the national economy.

8. Due to the effect of the decrees and resolutions, concerning librarianship and signed by V.I. Lenin, due to the corresponding instructions in his articles, speeches and letters, the libraries in the system of the Supreme Economic Council formed and grew strong. These libraries were founders of the present network of scientific and technical libraries. Together with the centralized guidance of the Soviet economy the Supreme Economic Council provided the centralized guidance and planning of the development of scientific and technical libraries.

So, for the first time in the history of librarianship the fact has been proved that it is possible to direct the development of scientific and technical libraries at a national level.

V.I. Lenin's principles of organizing the system of librarianship in the U.S.S.R. reflected in the structure and activities of the libraries in the system of the Supreme Economic Council. They were as follows: Party principles; centralization at the State level; variety of types of libraries; general availability; drawing the public into library activities. All these principles are still effective in the present situation.

The activities of the libraries in the system of the Supreme Economic Council proved correctness of unifying scientific and technical libraries into an independent system and expediency of constructing this system by branches of industry and according to territorial principle. In the process of their development, these libraries, originally subsidient to the Supreme Economic Council as documentation and resource centres, performed functions of public scientific libraries and coordinative functions, organizing other technical libraries at research institutes, industrial enterprises, and libraries with specialized stocks: patents, standards, industrial catalogs.

In order to use books more effectively for the needs of industry, it was necessary to devise a system of a specialized local service for engineers, technicians, workers and employees, and to organize technical libraries at factories, plants, research and educational institutions.

9. The process of developing the network of scientific and reference libraries was growing more active in the period of reconstruction of all branches of the national economy on the basis of new technology, in the situation of management by branches of industry and strengthening its links with production. Exactly at

that time a State scientific and technical library system was established, based on the closely interconnected sectoral and territorial principles. Such a structure enabled to study deeply and to meet more effectively(taking into consideration local and national peculiarities) the needs of engineers and workers in special technical literature, to provide an even library and bibliographical service for all branches of industry of a particular region or at the national level. Order N 666, issued by the Supreme Economic Council and adopted in April 1929, to establish technical libraries attached to enterprises, was evidence of a state planned approach to development of local libraries, providing true democratic nature of service for all the various branches of industry. According to the Order the Supreme Soviets in the Union Republics had to enlarge its scope to cover subordinate bodies. Owing to this fact it became possible to establish a network of scientific and technical libraries all over the country, in every Union Republic, to make them truly available for everybody.

The interconnection of the two guiding principles of the Soviet economy, namely: territorial and by branches, determined the situation, in which at the early stage of the Soviet economical development and apart from the All-Union multi-sectoral library, prototypes of modern central branch scientific and technical libraries were formed, serving industrial workers in particular branch or territory (republic) and, together with information and documentation centres, responsible for building up a single reference stock and library management. The close link between the two above--mentioned principles of structuring the network of scientific and technical libraries has been characteristic of all the stages of library development, including the present period of advanced socialism.

Following Lenin's programme of library development in our country, scientific and technical libraries of the U.S.S.R. have been developing and are developing not in isolation, but form an indissoluble part of the general library system in the U.S.S.R. and are structural sectors of information bodies, thus providing close co-ordination and co-operation of their activities, both within their own system and at an interlibrary level.

10. The planned nature of the Soviet economical development defines main trends in the development of work and structure of the network of scientific and technical libraries. The quest for new methods providing maximum correspondence of methods and functions of scientific and technical libraries to the needs of the national economy, forms the basis for continuous reorganization and for correction of the operation of the network.

The present period is marked by establishing closer links between libraries and other information services for science and technology by natural involvement of technical libraries into a single State information system.

The main qualitative changes in the activities of the scientific and technical libraries in connection with their integration into a single system of scientific and technical information, show that their work is now more purposeful and specialized, it is aimed at fulfilling the objectives set up before the information users served.

Trying to meet the growing needs of science and industry, the scientific and technical libraries have broadened their functions, have adopted new methods in their work, use technical means for processing and dissemination of information.

Within the network of scientific and technical libraries of the country, stable types of libraries at various levels have formed (All-Union central, branch, regional, local). They provide most effective use of their documentation and information stock in conformity with the scope and specific peculiarities of a certain branch.

11. The process of planning the scientific and technical libraries, based on Lenin's principles of library services for the population, has been constantly developing and improving, resulting in the creation of most favourable conditions for their activity.

Various administrative bodies and institutions at the head of the technical libraries have always tried to solve the problems concerning their organization and functions not at a departmental scale, but in the close inter connection with general objects of library development in all the branches throughout the whole country.

In the end conditions for elimination of the main defect of a library and bibliographical service for the national economy have been formed. The above-mentioned defect is that each enterprise or research institution library, owing to the nature of its stock and activities, is being shaped and operates as an isolated institution for drawing mass readers in systematic use of the library and its stock on a national scale.

Gradual transform of all the scientific and technical libraries of the country to work in close co-ordination within a single network is a concrete realization and completion in the present conditions of Lenin's idea of balanced organization of libraries.

At all stages of the development of scientific and technical libraries one may clearly see a striving for co-ordinated actions in exchange of experience and co-operation between the technical libraries and the libraries of other systems and departments responsible for promotion of technical literature. It is proved by the work of such institutions as libraries in the system of the Supreme Economic Council, the Association of Special Libraries (1931-1937), the State Scientific Library (particularly in the period before the Second World war), the Technical Libraries Section attached to the Ministry of Culture of the R.S.F.S.R. and other library institutions which functioned as co-ordinating centres at different stages of the development of the scientific and technical libraries (1947-1957).

The scope of co-ordination and co-operation of the libraries' activities aimed at stimulating the technical progress has grown immensely since 1958, when the State Public Scientific and Technical Library (GPNTB) of the U.S.S.R. was organized. Owing to this fact and to strengthening central regional and branch libraries (both at a central and local level) there appeared such institutions which were capable of performing in the course of time the guiding role in coordination and co-operation of the libraries' or various systems and departments, especially of the technical libraries.

In May 1963 the Public Methodological Council approved the proposal of the GPNTB concerning the transfer of all the scientific and technical libraries to work within a single system of library and bibliographical service for the national economy. The Council underscored the fact that this reorganization of the system

of the technical libraries had been caused by vital demands of workers in various branches of industry, in construction and transport, for high-quality and effective information about the latest achievements of science and technology.

12. The nature of the present activities of the technical libraries within a single system was defined by the Resolutions of the Party Plenum (September 1965) on the unity of the economical development of the country, by the Resolutions of the XXIIIrd and XXIVth Party Congresses and also in accordance with the decisions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. (March 1973) and the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (December 1973).

In accordance with the demands made of the structure of managing the national economy and of the ways to improve this structure the work within a single system is being regarded from two points of view, namely: branch and territorial. The main principle of constructing a single system by branches is supplemented by the territorial principle. Thus a unity of the actions of the technical libraries at all levels within a particular branch, on one hand, and co-ordination of the work of the technical libraries of various branches within a particular Union Republic, region, district, or town, on the other hand, can be achieved.

In the last ten years a rich practical experience of introduction of a single system at branch and territorial levels has been stored by the CNTB(Central Scientific and Technical Library) of light industry, the CNTB of the tractor and agricultural machinery industry, the RNTB (the Republican Scientific and Technical Library) of the Latvian S.S.R. the RNTB of the Ukrainian S.S.R.

and by many other libraries.

As before, one of the most effective ways of putting a single system into action is centralization, but at present it has considerably broadened its scope, has acquired some new characteristics; it is not only of a sectoral or local nature, but is functioning at a broad national level.

Among the main trends of the centralization of all the technical and scientific libraries throughout the country should be mentioned the following: organization of the inter-library loan service; library system location; centralized acquisition and book processing services on the basis of branch CNTB; centralized current awareness information service; centralized information system about current titles (union printed catalogues); integrated information system about industrial catalogues, based on their centralized acquisition and processing in the GPNTB and on a user-oriented service in Republics and regions; centralized acquisition of patents; centralized library service provided by the central scientific and technical libraries of the R.S.F.S.R. for those institutions where there are no libraries.

Along with the broad national scope, the process of centralization at the present stage is characterized by use of high-efficiency equipment. This involves: computers, communication media, duplicating machines etc.

The process of centralization at the present stage is marked by a new sign, namely: it is being realized not only within a certain system or at an inter-departmental level, but also at an international level. As an example of international co-operation, one may mention some projects of information systems for serials, industrial catalogues and unpublished translations, being worked out by the scientific and technical information bodies of the mem-

ber-countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid.

13. Unity of the main activities of the scientific and technical libraries, their interconnections with the libraries of other systems and departments and with scientific and technical information bodies has at its foundation unified plans of library and bibliographical service. Thus, for example, The State Republican Scientific and Technical Library and the central scientific and technical libraries of the Ukrainian S.S.R. have elaborated a co-ordinative scheme " Information and bibliographical services for the industry of the Ukrainian S.S.R. in the ninth five-year plan". The scheme reflects the main objects to be solved in the course of the current five-year plan. In some cases other special libraries are drawn into the work at such plans, for example, republican medical and agricultural libraries, libraries attached to the Academies of Sciences of the Union Republics, and so on. Distribution of functions among the main special libraries in the given region enables to achieve more efficient operation as a subsystem of scientific and technical information, the latter being a constituent element of the general library system in the U.S.S.R.

Some documents are of a certain practical interest namely: " A union long-term plan of research, scientific methodological and bibliographical work of the Kirghiz libraries for the period 1971-1975", a number of similar documents worked out by branch central scientific and technical libraries, including the libraries in the system of the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machinery Industry.

The completion of Lenin's plan of constructing a single library system has required a broader scope of planning activities and working out long-term programmes of scientific and technical libraries development.

At present the GPNTB of the U.S.S.R. and some other organizations have started elaborating a draft long-term project of scientific libraries development till the year of 2000. Directions for development of scientific and technical libraries as a sub-system of STI bodies are traced in the prognosis mapped out by the VINITI (All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information).

The guiding instructions to action, while working at such long-term programmes, are the Resolutions of the XXIVth Party Congress on the improvement and development of librarianship in the country.

The Resolutions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party "On increasing the role of libraries in the communist education of the working people and in the scientific and technical progress" adopted in May 1974, will enable to take a decisive step to the fullest completion of Lenin's idea of planned organization of library work in the U.S.S.R.

In accordance with this document the Soviets of Ministers of the Union and Autonomous Republics, regional and local executive committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies are encharged with the tasks of realizing in the course of 1974-1980 the centralization of State public libraries.So, on the base of city and district libraries a single network having a common staff, a single stock,centralized acquisition and book-processing operations should be created.

At the same time ministries and departments, the VCSPS (the All-Union Central Trade Union Council) have to work out measures for centralization of the libraries attached to them, to create branch and intersectoral centralized systems, providing effective co-ordination of their activities.

The Resolutions draw attention to the role of All-Union, branch, republican and local information centres and subordinate libraries in creating joint reference and information stocks.

14. Summing up the aforesaid, one may conclude that the well-planned development of scientific and technical libraries in the U.S.S.R is a result of carrying into life Lenin's principles of librarianship, the most important one being the idea of planned library development. It has resulted in the creation of a single multisectoral network of scientific and technical libraries, spread throughout the whole of the country and based on both branch and territorial principles, in the increasing of co-ordination and co-operation of work with libraries in their own and other systems and departments and with the institutions of the scientific and technical information system.

The final realization of Lenin's principles requires the development of a single library system on a wide State scale.